**Mrs. Shepherd’s 5th Grade**

**Reading/Language Arts Class**

**2015-2016**

Welcome to our class! As a parent you will find lots of useful information about our class in this syllabus. If you still have questions please email me at [Erica.shepherd@jppss.k12.la.us](mailto:Erica.shepherd@jppss.k12.la.us)

**About Our Class**

In this class we cover 2 subjects reading and grammar/writing. We use several different resources including texts from the CCSS curriculum, CCSS coach book, Readworks, novels, informational articles and other classroom magazines. Each week we will cover a number of skills and strategies and our knowledge of these skills will be assessed each Thursday and Friday.

**Tests**

Below you will find our testing schedule. Please note that I may sometimes modify the schedule due to school events or if extra time is needed to cover certain content. I will send a text to remind you of this, so please sign up for **Remind 101**. (see attachment)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reading Test** | **Vocabulary** | **Language Arts/Grammar** | **Writing** |
| Thursday | Every other Thursday | Every Friday | Every Friday |

**Reading Tests**

Reading tests will be given every Thursday. These are tests that contain a reading passage the students have never seen before. The test will contain multiple-choice questions in the PARCC format with a Part A and a Part B question. The questions will focus on the comprehension skills and strategies that we covered for that week. In addition there will be 1-2 reading response questions that require students to use text-based evidence to answer.

**So how can you study for the Reading test?**

Although, you won’t know the passage until the test, you can study for these tests by reading other passages and answering questions about them. Practice makes perfect!

**Vocabulary Tests**

We will study the same vocabulary words for 8 days, which means we will test on these words every other Thursday. The date of the next vocabulary test will always be written on the board and students will be responsible for writing it in their agenda. In addition to the 5 vocabulary words, there will also be a synonym and antonym for each word that you will be responsible for knowing. The test will be a fill-in the blank format.

**So how can you study for vocabulary tests?**

Know your definitions and how to use the words in context. Students will be required to write their words, definition and a sentence with each word on index cards.

**Language Arts Tests/Grammar**

Each week we will discuss a new grammar skill on Wednesday, as the skill will also be introduced during Daily Oral Language beginning on Monday. The language arts tests will be on Friday.

**So how can you study for the grammar test?**

We will create a study guide each Wednesday to help study for the test. You will know the skill on Monday, so if you need additional practice, just ask and I can give you some extra material to look over.

**Other Grades**

**Classwork**

Some classwork will be done independently and taken for a grade. Students will be aware of what assignments will be graded.

**Weekly Reading Response Letters**

Every other Friday after testing, students will write their weekly reading response letter to me. This letter will be written about their bi-weekly selection book. (Students will have 2 weeks to complete the reading of the book.) The letters must be written in class and be one page in length. We will discuss the criteria for the letters when we write our first one.

**3-Subject Notebook**

For our class, students will have a 3-subject notebook. The sections will be divided for Reading, Language Arts/Grammar and Vocabulary. Daily work for each subject will be kept in the appropriate section.

**Make-up Work**

We all have to miss school sometimes. When a student is absent, he/she must come to me when he/she returns and ask for missed work. It is the STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to come to me to get their make-up work and/or tests.

**Novel Studies**

We will be doing several novel studies throughout the year to expose students to different novels they might otherwise not pick up and read. Students will be allowed to bring the novel home for additional reading or re-reading. There will be grade activities done in class, along with quizzes to check for understanding.

**Homework**

Homework will be given each night and may consist of the following: a question to answer using a comprehension passage, independent reading, grammar practice, and studying vocabulary words. Some class assignments that aren’t finished in class may have to be completed at home as homework. INDEPENDENT READING AT HOME SHOULD BE DONE EACH NIGHT! This is SO important! Read, read, read!

**Remind 101**

Please sign up on Remind 101 to stay up to date with class and school news. **Your child will receive 5 extra bonus points on their first Reading test when you sign up**. To receive messages via text, text **@shepherd1** to **81010**. You can opt out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @shepherd1

Please sign below stating that you have read this syllabus and are fully aware of the expectations of the class. 5th grade reading is so much fun and we are going to have a wonderful year! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [Erica.shepherd@jppss.k12.la.us](mailto:Erica.shepherd@jppss.k12.la.us)

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Parent’s Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thanks!

Mrs. Shepherd